

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5875

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KOREAN REACTION TO JAPANESE FONMIN'S REMARKS

REF: SEOUL 5841, SEOUL 5847

1. IN WAKE OF DEMONSTRATORS BREAK-IN AT JAPANESE EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 6, ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY AND POLITICAL PARTY SPOKESMEN HAVE RESPONDED WITH HEAT TO FONMIN KIMURA'S ALLEGED REMARKS DURING DIET'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION. LOCAL MEDIA HAS FOCUSED ON KIMURA'S AGREEMENT WITH DIRECTOR OF TREATIES BUREAU THAT HE DID NOT HAVE "UNDERSTANDING" THAT ROKG WAS ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT ON KOREAN PENINSULA.

2. PRESS HAS REPORTED STATEMENT OF RANKING FONMIN OFFICIALS THAT KIMURA REMARK WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND THAT TRUE INTENT OF DIET COMMITTEE STATEMENTS MUST BE ASCERTAINED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. FONOFF STATEMENTS ALSO NOTED THAT ROKG CANNOT HELP BUT TAKE INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION KIMURA'S STATEMENT AS ONE AGAINST SPIRIT OF ROK/GOJ BASIC AGREEMENT. GOVERNMENT SAID IT IS SUSPICIOUS OF REAL INTENT OF
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SUCH STATEMENT AND THAT IT IS VERY REGRETTABLE THAT

JAPAN CONTINUES TO MAKE REMARKS SUCH AS EARLIER ONE FROM KIMURA ABOUT NO THREAT FROM NORTH.

3. DRP SPOKESMAN CONTINUED IN SAME VEIN, REGRETTING THAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS, DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL, THE TIME, AND THE PLACE, MAKE STATEMENTS WHICH INDICATE LACK OF CONTINUITY IN GOJ POLICY. SPOKESMAN SAID HE COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT KIMURA'S STATEMENT COMES FROM A "MENTALLY DISTRACTED PERSON."

4. YUCHONGHOE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED VIOLATION OF SPIRIT OF ROK/GOJ AGREEMENT WHILE ASKING ROK TO COME UP WITH DIPLOMATIC COUNTER-MEASURES. ACCORDING TO NDP SPOKESMAN, PARTY FEELS "HIDDEN INTENTION" OF GOJ IS BECOMING CLEAR AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS HAVE REACHED THEIR WORST STAGE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE ORKG HAS ACCEPTED TWO KOREAS CONCEPT, KIMURA'S STATEMENT, COMING FROM CLOSE ALLY,, HAS HIT SENSITIVE NERVE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER KIMURA'S ALLEGED STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 5 WAS MAJOR PRECIPITATING FACTOR IN ROK DECISION TO ALLOW SEMONSTRATORS TO VIOLATE JAPANESE EMBASSY PREMISES. OTHER TOKYO NEWS REPORTS TODAY HAVE TAKEN PESSIMISTIC LINE RE ANTICIPATED GOJ REPLY TO ROKG DEMANDS. HOWEVER, THIS LATEST IN SERIES OF KIMURA STATEMENTS IS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY RESENTED. IN CONTEXT OF ALREADY EXISTING TENSIONS DESCRIBED IN EARLIER TELS, KIMURA'S STATEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER SIGANL THAT THE JAPANESE REMAIN UNRESPONSIVE TO KOREAN POSITION AND TO PRESIDENT PARK'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN SITUATION. ERICSON

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